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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Poland

REPORT

SUBJECT Description of Gorzow

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Background/War Damages

1. "Gorzow (German: Landsberg a. Warthe) now a district town, was before World War II quite an important industrial center. Shortly before World War II a large branch of the German I. G. Farben Industrie concern had been established here as well as one of the largest jute plants in Germany (Soviet Zone). In addition, Gorzow was a center of the metallurgical and food industry. The town was only slightly damaged during World War II when it was taken over by the Soviet Army in January 1945. Not long afterwards the county administration board for the Zielona Gora area (German: Gruenberg) temporarily had its seat in Gorzow. While the residential areas and many military objects remained nearly untouched by World War II actions, most of the industrial enterprises were burned down by the retreating German Army or otherwise later dismantled by the Soviet authorities.

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Reconstruction

2. "The rebuilding of Gorzow started as early as 1945/46 and followed the pre-World War II plans of the town. Gorzow is situated on both sides of the Warta River, and the northern part is much more developed. The part of the town located on the southern bank of the Warta River is called Zamoscie. The northern part of the town is really the heart of town, and this part was constructed during the Middle Ages. Up to this year /1954/ the only communication between the two parts was by way of the rebuilt highway-bridge. The railway-bridge was opened as late as spring 1954. The part of Gorzow situated on the northern bank of the Warta River stretches toward the north on both sides of the Klodawa, a small afflux of the Warta River.

3. "Apart from the reconstruction of the residential area, the construction of the artificial yarn plant has been undertaken. Gorzow was also one of the places where the first new settlers arrived after expulsion of the previous German inhabitants [sic].

Further Expansion Planned

4. "There are many projects planned for the further expansion of Gorzow which, according to long-term plans, will have at least 100,000 inhabitants in 1970, in contrast to its pre-World War II 50,000 inhabitants. There are projects to remodel the layout of the town, to build up a large east-west transient communication artery through the town, to construct a harbor on the Warta River and to locate in the town itself more industrial enterprises connected with the present production of artificial yarns and threads. For the time being only the spinning mill is in operation in Gorzow and thread is sent to weaving mills located in Lodz or Bielsko-Biala. It is expected that the artificial yarn plant will be equipped with its own weaving mill in the near future.

5. "Besides this industrial importance, Gorzow holds one of the key positions in the electrification of Polish western territories. In 1952 a new and very modern steam power plant was constructed in the town which is connected by high tension line with another large new plant--a hydro power plant--in Dychow, south of Zielona Zora. Already four branch-offs lead out from the Gorzow high-tension line into various directions.

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